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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 454 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY COSTA, YUDICHAK, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, FERLO, BROWNE,  
SOLOBAY, BLAKE AND FARNESE, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), entitled  
2 "An act reforming the law on medical professional liability;  
3 providing for patient safety and reporting; establishing the  
4 Patient Safety Authority and the Patient Safety Trust Fund;  
5 abrogating regulations; providing for medical professional  
6 liability informed consent, damages, expert qualifications,  
7 limitations of actions and medical records; establishing the  
8 Interbranch Commission on Venue; providing for medical  
9 professional liability insurance; establishing the Medical  
10 Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund; providing for  
11 medical professional liability claims; establishing the Joint  
12 Underwriting Association; regulating medical professional  
13 liability insurance; providing for medical licensure  
14 regulation; providing for administration; imposing penalties;  
15 and making repeals," further providing for continuing medical  
16 education.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Section 910 of the act of March 20, 2002  
20 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the Medical Care Availability and  
21 Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, is amended by adding a  
22 subsection to read:

23 Section 910. Continuing medical education.

24 \* \* \*

25 (b.1) Additional medical education.--

1           (1) As part of the 100 hours of mandatory continuing  
2 education required of individuals licensed to practice  
3 medicine and surgery, 12 hours shall be in the subjects of  
4 palliative care and the treatment of terminally ill and dying  
5 patients, including:

6           (i) Management of pain and other symptoms such as  
7 nausea, insomnia, shortness of breath, delirium and loss  
8 of appetite.

9           (ii) Communication with seriously ill patients.

10           (iii) Assessment of prognosis in seriously or  
11 chronically ill patients.

12           (iv) Advance planning and medical decision making.

13           (2) For the purpose of this subsection, the 12 hours of  
14 continuing education shall be a one-time requirement.  
15 Individuals licensed to practice medicine and surgery without  
16 restriction shall complete the 12 hours of continuing  
17 education during a biennial renewal cycle before December 31,  
18 2017. The licensure board may verify completion of this  
19 requirement on the renewal form.

20           (3) As determined by the licensure board, individuals  
21 licensed to practice medicine and surgery without restriction  
22 may be exempt from the requirement in this subsection if the  
23 licensee does not treat patients or provide patient  
24 consultations.

25           (4) For a physician who routinely cares for children for  
26 more than 15% of the physician's clinical volume, at least 4  
27 of the 12 credits shall address the specific concerns of  
28 pediatric palliative care.

29           \* \* \*

30           Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.